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Report of the International Atomic Energy Agency

Prevention of an arms race in outer space

General and complete disarmament

Convention on the Prohibition of the Development, Production and Stockpiling of Bacteriological (Biological) and Toxin Weapons and on Their Destruction

Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty

Security Council
Fifty-eighth year

Letter dated 18 February 2003 from the Permanent Representatives of France and the Russian Federation to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

We have the honour to transmit the text of the Russian-French Declaration on Strategic Issues adopted during the visit of the President of the Russian Federation, Vladimir V. Putin, to France on 10 February 2003 (see annex).

We would be grateful if the text of the present letter and its annex could be distributed as a document of the General Assembly, under agenda items 14, 65, 66, 72, 73, and of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Jean Marc **de La Sablière**
Ambassador
Permanent Representative of France to the United Nations

(*Signed*) Sergey **Lavrov**
Ambassador
Permanent Representative of the Russian Federation to the United Nations

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Annex to the letter dated 18 February 2003 from the Permanent Representatives of France and the Russian Federation to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

[Original: French and Russian]

Russian-French Declaration on Strategic Issues (Paris, 10 February 2003)

The proliferation of weapons of mass destruction and their delivery vehicles is creating a growing threat to peace and international stability.

A global approach is necessary in the face of this threat.

In this context, the Russian Federation and France — permanent members of the United Nations Security Council — are fully determined to continue to play their characteristically active role in the interests of law and international and regional stability and security, while pursuing and strengthening cooperation aimed at preventing the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction.

The Russian Federation and France reaffirm the need to make full use of and strengthen the appropriate mechanisms at the disposal of the international community. They advocate that the States and international organizations concerned should work actively in order to ensure the strict observance of existing international norms and obligations, in particular, those with regard to export controls in sensitive areas, and should continue practical cooperation with a view to preventing the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction and materials and technologies related to their production.

The Russian Federation and France are convinced that no tolerance should be showed for those who fail to carry out their obligations in this field.

In furtherance of the discussion within the framework of the Russian-French Council for Cooperation on Security Problems, they have decided to establish a bilateral group of experts on the non-proliferation of weapons of mass destruction and their delivery vehicles. This group will meet on a regular basis with a view to considering all relevant issues as well as ensuring proper coordination and providing the necessary impetus for joint actions by the two countries.

The Russian Federation and France attach special importance to the questions of preventing access by terrorists or those who harbour them to weapons of mass destruction and the materials related to their production. In this connection, they reaffirm their commitment undertaken at the Group of Eight Summit in Kananaskis to the agreement on the Global Partnership against the Spread of Weapons and Materials of Mass Destruction. The Russian Federation and France undertook to make an important contribution to implementing the Global Partnership agreement over the next 10 years (the Russian Federation providing $2 billion, and France $750 million).

Our countries note the importance of stepping up work aimed at converting the political agreements on the Global Partnership reached at the Kananaskis Summit into specific projects. In this context, the Russian Federation expresses support for the goals of the French presidency of the Group of Eight.

The Russian Federation and France regard the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons (NPT) as the basis for the international nuclear non-proliferation regime. The Russian Federation and France underscore the importance of strict compliance with its provisions on the part of all States parties to the Treaty. They attach particular importance to the Treaty review process and are fully determined to coordinate efforts and act to promote the successful holding of the NPT Review Conference in 2005.

The Russian Federation and France call upon all States that have not yet done so to accede to Additional Protocols to their Safeguards Agreements with the International Atomic Energy Agency.

The Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty is a key element in the field of nuclear disarmament and nuclear non-proliferation. The Russian Federation and France call upon all countries, first and foremost, those on which the Treaty's entry into force depends, to sign and ratify the Treaty as soon as possible. Pending its entry into force, the Russian Federation and France call for the continued observance of the moratorium on nuclear-weapon test explosions and all other nuclear explosions.

Starting without delay negotiations at the Conference on Disarmament on a treaty on the prohibition of the production of fissile materials for nuclear weapons within the framework of a balanced work programme is a common objective for the Russian Federation and France.

The Russian Federation and France consider that the speediest entry into force and implementation of the Russian-United States Treaty on the Reduction of Strategic Offensive Arms would make a long-term contribution to the cause of nuclear disarmament and the strengthening of international stability.

The Russian Federation and France stress the importance of strict observance of the Convention on the Prohibition of Biological Weapons. They will continue to participate actively in multilateral efforts with a view to strengthening the Convention's regime. The Russian Federation and France call upon the countries that have not yet acceded to the Convention to do so as soon as possible.

The Russian Federation and France attach great importance to the implementation of the Convention on the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons. They call upon the countries that have not yet acceded to the Convention to do so as soon as possible. The destruction of chemical-weapon stockpiles must be carried out by all States that possess them.

The peaceful utilization of outer space should be ensured for the benefit and in the interests of all. The Russian Federation and France reaffirm that averting an arms race in outer space is a strategically important issue. The Russian Federation and France call for the immediate commencement of work on this problem at the Conference on Disarmament under a balanced work programme. They reaffirm the usefulness of confidence-building measures in this field.

The Russian Federation and France welcome the launch of the Hague Code of Conduct against Ballistic Missile Proliferation. They will continue efforts to implement the Hague Code and to win the support of the countries with ballistic capabilities that have not as yet signed it. The Code is the first step on the path towards the elaboration of a broad, legally binding agreement.

The Russian Federation and France reaffirm the role of the United Nations Security Council in the struggle against the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction. In this connection, they favour the holding of a summit of the Security Council members which would have a dual mandate: evaluating political efforts to promote non-proliferation and giving them decisive impetus.